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What is claimed is:

1. A method for inactivating pathogens in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising:

administering to the individual a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective pathogen inactivating 5 amount of a copolymer of maleic acid and styrenesulfonic acid, or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the effective pathogen inactivating amount of the inhibitor compound is from 0.5 mg to 5 g per dose.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered topically.

4. A method for inactivating pathogens in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising:

administering to the individual a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective pathogen inactivating amount of polyvinyl phthalate sulphate, or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the polyvinyl phthalate sulphate is a mixed ester comprising phthalate and sulphate functional groups on a polyvinyl backbone.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein the effective pathogen inactivating amount is 0.5 mg to 5 g per dose.

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7. The method according to claim 4, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered topically.

8. A method for preventing transmission or infection of sexually transmitted diseases in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising:

administering a pharmaceutical composition to a portion
5 or part of the body of said individual that is involved in a sexual activity or a sexual contact, said administration being prior to said sexual activity or sexual contact, or immediately thereafter, said pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a copolymer of maleic acid
10 and styrenesulfonic acid, or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor; and

wherein said sexually transmitted disease is caused by, or is chlamydia trachomatis, herpes simplex virus, syphilis, gonorrhea or papilloma virus.

9. A method for preventing transmission or infection of sexually transmitted diseases in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising:

administering a pharmaceutical composition to a portion
5 or part of an individual's body that is involved in a sexual activity or a sexual contact, said administration being prior to said sexual activity or sexual contact, or immediately thereafter, said pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a copolymer of maleic acid
10 and styrenesulfonic acid, or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor; and

wherein said sexually transmitted disease is caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

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10. The method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the effective amount is 0.5 mg to 5 g.

11. The method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered topically.

12. A method for preventing transmission or infection of sexually transmitted diseases in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising:

administering a pharmaceutical composition to a portion
5 or part of an individual's body that is involved in a sexual activity or a sexual contact, said administration being prior to said sexual activity or sexual contact, or immediately thereafter, said pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polyvinyl phthalate
10 sulphate, or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor; and

wherein said sexually transmitted disease is caused by or is chlamydia trachomatis, herpes simplex virus, syphilis, gonorrhea or papilloma virus.

13. A method for preventing transmission or infection of sexually transmitted diseases in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising:

administering a pharmaceutical composition to a portion
5 or part of an individual's body that is involved in a sexual activity or a sexual contact, said administration being prior to said sexual activity or sexual contact, or immediately thereafter, said pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polyvinyl phthalate
10 sulphate, or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor; and

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wherein said sexually transmitted disease is caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

14. The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the effective amount is 0.5 mg to 5 g per dose.

15. The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered topically.

16. A method for treating and preventing bacterial vaginitis in a female individual in need thereof, said method comprising

5 administering to the vaginal area of said female individual, a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a copolymer of maleic acid and styrenesulfonic acid, or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the effective amount is 0.5 mg to 5 g per dose.

18. A method for treating and preventing bacterial vaginitis in a female individual in need thereof, said method comprising

5 administering to the vaginal area of said female individual, a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polyvinyl phthalate sulphate, or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the effective amount is 0.5 mg to 5 g per dose.

